



Chequamegon Chirps

Newsletter of the Chequamegon Bird Club

Medford, Wisconsin

April 2011

Volume 30 Number 4

NEXT MEETING:

Date: **Monday, April 18, 2011**

Time: **7:00 p.m.**

Location: **Medford Public Library**
400 N Main St
Medford

Election of Club Officers

Program: **Club Projects** (see p. 2)
Viewing Blind
Chimney Swift Tower
Spring Migration Discussion

Food: **Connie Decker and Claire Romanak**



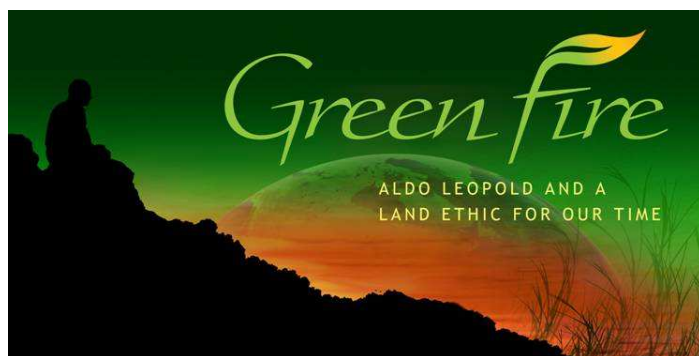
Upcoming Events

- ❖ **Friday, April 22**
 - **EARTH DAY**
 - Rather than holding a club event, members are asked to spend some time on their own collecting trash.
- ❖ **Sunday, May 1, 1:00 p.m.**
 - **GREEN FIRE - Film about Aldo Leopold**
 - Broadway Theatre in Medford
 - *Free admission*
 - Sponsored by Chequamegon Bird Club, MASH Science Club, Perkins Place, Chequamegon Wildlife and Recreation Club, Taylor County Land Conservation Dept., and the Broadway Theatre
- ❖ **Saturday, May 14**
 - **INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY**
 - Perkinstown Winter Sports Area
 - 7:30 a.m. – Early Bird walk
 - 9:00 a.m. – Bird & Wildflower walk

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and A Land Ethic for Our Time

See the first full-length, high-definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold and his environmental legacy! *Green Fire* shares highlights from his extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation and the modern environmental movement. It also illustrates how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land continues to inform and inspire people across the country and around the world, highlighting modern projects that put Leopold's land ethic in action in a multitude of ways.

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1:00 p.m.
Broadway Theatre
910 W Broadway, Medford
Free Admission



Sponsored by the Chequamegon Bird Club, MASH Science Club, Chequamegon Wildlife and Recreation Club, Perkins Place, the Broadway Theatre, and the Taylor County Land Conservation Department.

Possible Club Projects: Viewing Blind and Chimney Swift Tower

Viewing Blind:

Joe Scott has been looking at options for building a viewing and photography blind somewhere in this area, which the club will fund, at least in part, through the Greg Scott Memorial Fund. The final site for the blind has not been determined but possibilities include the Medford School Forest, Pershing Wildlife Area, Chequamegon National Forest, and the Perkinstown Winter Sports Area, as well as other locations.

Many viewing blinds are simple three-sided structures, either roofed or unroofed. Some are quite elaborate. A well-designed and properly-sited blind offers bird and other wildlife watchers and photographers the opportunity to observe and photograph without disturbing the birds or wildlife involved.



Chimney Swift Tower:

There has been some discussion of building a chimney swift tower. Chimney Swifts have been losing potential nesting and roosting sites as chimney caps have become more common, brick chimneys are replaced with those with stainless or other smooth liners, or chimneys are eliminated entirely with the installation of direct venting furnaces. Before chimneys were available these swifts nested in hollow trees; they were called American Swifts by Audubon. There is only one nest per site, though they roost communally when not nesting. Many locations would be suitable, including the River Walk area.



Bird Reports (February – March 2011)



Checklist observers: *Rhoda Barber, Gayle Davis, Connie Decker, Hildegard and Loretta Kuse, Ken Luepke, Cathy Mauer, Gordy Ruesch, Doug and Willa Pledger, Larry Ruhde, Cam Scott, Joe Scott, and Ron Shiffler*

Total number of species observed this month: 91

(Only names of observers for rare or unusual sightings are included in the list below.)

- Cackling Goose (Ruhde), Greater White-fronted Goose (Ruhde), Ross's Goose * (Ruhde), Canada Goose, Mute Swan (Ruhde), Trumpeter Swan (Shiffler), Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup (Ruhde / Shiffler), Harlequin Duck * (Ruhde), White-winged Scoter (Ruhde), Long-tailed Duck (Ruhde), Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser
- Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey
- Pied-billed Grebe, American White Pelican (Ruhde), Great Blue Heron
- Turkey Vulture (Pledger/Shiffler), Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon (Ruhde)
- Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, American Woodcock
- Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Thayer's Gull (Ruhde), Glaucous Gull (Ruhde)
- Rock Pigeon, Eur. Collared-Dove ** (Ruhde), Mourning Dove
- Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl (Decker), Barred Owl
- Belted Kingfisher (Davis)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker
- Northern Shrike, Gray Jay (Multiple observers), Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven
- Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper (C. Scott/Mauer/Ruesch/Decker)
- Eastern Bluebird, American Robin
- European Starling, Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar Waxwing
- American Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow (Decker/Luepke), Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur (Ruhde), Snow Bunting
- Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird
- Pine Grosbeak (Ruhde), Purple Finch, House Finch, White-winged Crossbill (Decker), Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak (Multiple observers), House Sparrow

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)

IMBD celebrates and brings attention to one of the most important and spectacular events in the Americas - bird migration. Bird Day is celebrated in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

We will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) with bird walks at the Perkinstown Winter Sports Area on Saturday, May 14. An Early Bird Walk will start at 7:30 a.m. and a second Bird and Wildflower Walk will start at 9:00 a.m. Both walks will start near the shelter and follow trails that go through a variety of habitats. The Winter Sports Area is located at N4168 Winter Sports Road, about 20 miles northwest of Medford. Everyone is invited.

The event is cosponsored by the Chequamegon Bird Club and Walk on the Wild Side.



Editor, Chequamegon Chirps
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«FIRST_NAME» «LAST_NAME»
«STREET_ADDRESS»
«CITY» «STATE» «ZIP_CODE»

Club Officers

President – Claire Romanak
Vice-president – Connie Decker
Secretary – Gayle Davis
Treasurer – Cam Scott

Other Club Contacts

Web site: www.chequamegonbirdclub.org

Email: info@chequamegonbirdclub.org

Newsletter Email: newsletter@chequamegonbirdclub.org

(Cathy Mauer, editor)

Bird sightings: Connie Decker

April – May Outdoors

- April 17 – Full Moon
- April 22 – Earth Day
- Wildflowers starting to bloom
- Spring migrants – both those passing through and summer residents – arrive in droves, with the latter establishing territories, building nests, and laying eggs.
- Time to plant trees, shrubs, and flowers to provide food and shelter for birds and other animals. Native plants are highly preferred, both because our wildlife is adapted to them and because that avoids the risk of introducing invasive species.
- Keep your cats indoors and take action to prevent bird collisions with windows.
- May 1 – Dawn Chorus Day
- May 14 – International Migratory Bird Day



Birder's Bookshelf

When a regular field guide doesn't provide all the clues you need to identify a bird or doesn't have all the information you want, a specialty guide may help. Topics covered by such guides include nests, warblers, sparrows, shorebirds, raptors, etc. Among the books focusing on hawks are two by Jerry Liguori: *Hawks from Every Angle: How to Identify Raptors in Flight* and *Hawks at a Distance: Identification of Migrant Raptors*. While these two books have excellent photos of hawks in flight, another book to consider is *A Photographic Guide to North American Raptors* by Brian K. Wheeler and William S. Clark, which has excellent photos of both perched and flying birds in different plumages, though does not include the more distant photos of both of Liguori's books.